

MONROE CITY DEMOCRAT

Volume XXXI

Monroe City, Missouri, Friday, December 13, 1918

Number 37

MUST RETURN PROMPT

Our Boys Overseas Entitled to Consideration

The matter of demobilizing the Army should not be made too difficult. The war being over, the great majority of the enlisted men should be helped to return to their own homes and their normal business with the least possible delay. To keep them in the camps is not only a needless expense for the Government, but an obvious injustice to the men. As for the more than two million American soldiers who are in Europe, they were enlisted and taken thousands of miles from their homes for the definite purpose of ending a war and for nothing else. There is not a vestige of excuse for keeping them in Europe, beyond the time when shipping can be found to bring them home. Europe will have a great many problems to deal with in this new period after the war; but these do not in the smallest measures concern the United States Army. The European nations in time of peace are amply to guard their own communities and are not requiring young Americans for police duty, much less for any other tasks. It should be far easier to bring home 500,000 a month than it was to take 300,000 a month to the theater of war. The one task that is incomparably urgent beyond all other is this duty of bringing back the American Army from Europe. It is due to the men and to their relatives here at home, as a matter of good faith. All ships coming to our shores for food, cotton, steel, machinery, or supplies of any kind should be requisitioned to bring American troops, as a condition of being allowed to carry away goods on the return trip. The expense of maintaining an idle army on the other side of the Atlantic is a very large item every twenty-four hours. It would be asking too much, perhaps, to demand the return of two million men in three months, although that would not be a harder task than some that we have performed within the past half year.

Who Never Fought

Gen. Pershing's long and interesting account of American military operations in France shows that while the censor held back many details that the American people would like to have known, the essential facts in the story were all placed before the country in official and unofficial reports as the war progressed.

There was one American contribution to the victory which the General does not stress, but which was decisive, nevertheless. This knowledge brought home to the Germans, that even if they stopped the American advance in the Argonne, it would only be to find another American army driving into their thinly held lines to the southward or re-enforcing the British and French armies.

The Germans knew that no success over the Allies could be more than temporary after the American Army had passed the 3,000,000 mark and their morale caved in. To this result the million and more of soldiers who never left this country contributed.

Mrs. Chas. McClintic and little son have returned to their home at Selkirk, Kansas, after an extended visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Asbury.

Morgan Goes to Pen

Sheriff A. J. Neff took Irving Morgan to Jefferson City Friday and placed him in the penitentiary to begin serving his 20-year sentence for the murder of his wife, whom he threw from a Burlington train near Shelbyville last June. The trip was made by automobile.

The motion for a new trial for Morgan was argued before Judge V. L. Drain Thursday and overruled by the court. Morgan's attorneys stated that they would appeal, but they failed to file bond for costs.—Shelbyville Democrat.

THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

Sane Ideas for the Sensible Xmas Shopper

The rush of Christmas presents buying will now be on in earnest. Unless people show some reason and forethought, there will be the same old jam at Christmas time. While the coming of peace will relieve conditions somewhat, yet help will still be short in stores, on the railroads, and in express offices and post offices, etc. As usual a great many thoughtless people will delay buying what they need until the last week.

As a result a large army of people will be greatly overworked. They are asked to handle about five times as much material as usual. To a great many people habitually crowded by working conditions, this holiday season is the last straw that brings on a break down.

It must be exceedingly trying to the owners and employees of retail stores to have the public act in so irrational a manner. Our merchants and clerks could perform much better service if people would distribute their purchases over a wider period.

The merchants want the buyer to have time and attention so as to talk over purchases with the salesperson, and be sure that the goods are adapted to the needs of the one who is buying them, or the one to whom they are to be given. That can not possibly be done if everyone rushes into the stores the last week before the holiday. Under those conditions goods have to be sold on a "take it or leave it" basis with results satisfactory neither to the customer nor the seller.

So let this year be more considerate of the employees of the public service corporations that handle our material, and the people who conduct our stores. Early Christmas buying means better service. It will make Christmas a pleasant season to many people who formerly dreaded it for the whole year.

Repeal of the increase in postage rates was approved recently by the Senate Finance Committee. Amendments to the war revenue bill were adopted to abolish the zone increase on second class mail, with a proviso that the rate shall be one and one-half cents a pound beyond a 200-mile radius, and also for repeal of the extra cent an ounce postage on letters.

Monroe City Odd Fellows elected the following officers at their regular meeting Thursday night of last week: Otis Webb, N. G.; John Medcalf V. G. G. E. Chipman was reelected Secretary, Harry E. Srean, Treasurer and W. L. Green, Trustee, for three years term.

J. W. Overly and wife, accompanied by Mrs. A. L. Nash were Quincey visitors Saturday.

CHEERING ROAD NEWS

Prospect for Good Roads Never Better

The Department of Agriculture at Washington has \$70,000,000 to apportion under the Federal Aid Act for the building of new highways throughout the United States during the fiscal year that will end next July.

Within two days from the signing of the armistice all restrictions with regard to building new roads were rescinded, and the highway builders of the nation are gathering in Chicago this month to discuss every phase of road building. From a tentative program that has been issued on behalf of the American Association of State Highway officials and the Highway Industries Association it would appear that highway control is drifting toward federal parentage. Road building has taken on new significance with in the past few years, and there is a strong probability that returning soldiers will perform a useful service in demonstrating the value of explosives in road building. Dynamite has plowed many new highways in making roads in France, Belgium and Italy and the soldiers who learned more of the value of explosives in military road-building will not be slow in applying their knowledge in the making of new highways at home. Systematic road building must follow up the old methods, as it has become apparent that loosely constructed highways have no place in the new scheme of our national highway. With an increase of 100 per cent in the motor truck travel in twenty four months, and with this means of transportation established as a part of our new national system, the state highway officials are in entire harmony with the viewpoint of Washington and its road builders in the belief that the time has come when road building should be a profession and a trade. Roads that start and finish according to the selfish plan of political pull are due for many severe jolts as the new system in road building develops.

The new modes of transportation demand trunk highways and connecting lines to reach all points of population. Rural motor routes are being established by the Post-office Department, and through highways connecting every part of the country are being planned, which will make bee-lines for the principal sea-ports. These are not visions of the future but they constitute definite plans of the Government that will be put in motion during the coming weeks and months.

Masonic Notice

All Master Masons are requested to be present Friday evening, December 13, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year.—C. S. Jackson, W. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bodkins after spending several weeks with his mother, Mrs. Mary Bodkins and other relatives in and near this city, returned to their home in Oklahoma, Monday.

Tons of pretty ready-made suits, dresses, coats, furs, waists, dress skirts, etc., especially brought on for Christmas purposes at very reasonable prices, at Kespohl-Mohrenstecher's. See them!

Home made candies at the bazaar today and tomorrow.

Leo McFarland

The death of Leo McFarland occurred at St. Mary's Hospital in Quincy, Sunday, December 8, 1918, as a result of pneumonia following influenza. Leo was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy McFarland of this city. He underwent an operation at St. Mary's some weeks ago. He was past 12 years of age. The remains were brought here and interred in St. Jude's cemetery Tuesday, December 10th.

Mrs. J. S. Starrett of this city was the guest of relatives and friends in Shelbyville last week.

GERMANY IN FUTURE?

A Question that is Just Now Attracting Attention

The future of Germany is a subject that must hold the anxious attention of the world for some time to come. No other modern nation has so misused its opportunities as the German confederation. The German people submitted to wrong tendencies and policies in their own government, when they should have resisted even to the point of revolution. It is true, of course, that the War Lords, having developed a military system, were controlling the people in such a way as to make a revolution extremely difficult. In strict reality, the Germans for a long time past have had no enemy except their own militaristic government, with its groups of commercial beneficiaries. It is a terrible price that the German people are paying for having submitted to such rulers and listened to their professors and writers. If they can but learn the lesson of humility, they will find that the people they have wronged the most will be readiest to treat them generously. The French have suffered long enough to rise above hatred, and to leave vengeance to the higher powers that rule the universe. Since Germany owes her war loans merely to herself, she can disregard them altogether for the present. She is in a favorable position, in many respects, inasmuch as her cities are undestroyed, her factories are equipped, her lands are in cultivation, and her highways of internal commerce are open and in repair. Allied military occupation will not interfere with Germany's civilian activities. The disbanding of the German army and the surrender of the German navy will at once relieve the German people from what has been their greatest public burden. They will be able to take prompt and rapid steps towards meeting their obligations to Belgium and France, as soon as they have adjusted their internal conditions and set in motion the machinery of their new government.

After an extended visit with her parents in Hannibal, Mrs. C. A. Noland has returned home and her husband's smiling face is now absent at the lunch counter.

The 4-year-old son of B. Swearingen and wife had the misfortune to break an arm while at play last Sunday. He is getting along nicely at present.

Fred Angus and wife were in Callao Sunday. Mr. Angus lost some property in the recent fire at that place.

Mrs. L. D. Moore and son returned to their home at Kirdwood, Monday after a visit with relatives in this city.

HOME TOWN FEELING.

Take Pride in Monroe City, Buy at Home

The home town means a lot more to some people than to others. Some people do not feel close ties to any place. They move around without feeling of regret or loss. They do not feel badly to part with the friends they make, because they do not create intimate ties. They do not acknowledge obligation to work in co-operation with their fellow citizens, and no one feels any obligation to help them along. They play a lone hand all their days, and never get far.

Other people have an intense feeling of loyalty binding them to the home soil. It is partly sentimental affection, partly a keen sense of the advantages of business unity and co-operation. They feel united by a common tie to all the people who live in the town. Monroe City has a lot of people of this kind, who have been the mainstay of all our progress. They feel a keen interest in every person or thing that was ever connected with the place, and any project tending to work for its benefit has their hearty and enthusiastic support.

In so far as all our people acquire that point of view, we shall attain our ideals as a community. This involves giving a preference in all our business relations to anything that comes from the home town. If a suit of clothes sold here is just as good as one bought somewhere else, we should buy the suit of clothes sold here. We might well buy it, even if it was not quite so good, but it is not necessary in our good stores to make that kind of sacrifice.

When a town fully acquires that unity of spirit and purpose and feeling, the possibilities of its progress are enormous. It advances as a compact mass of people devoted to one end, not as a lot of separate individuals all working for diverse purpose.

Monument at Laclede

A move to construct an elaborate memorial arch on the Pershing transport route, formerly the Hannibal and St. Joseph cross state highway, has been started, says a dispatch from Macon.

The plan is to erect an imposing design at the eastern entrance of Laclede, where Pershing was born. The structure under consideration will be a sort of double arch. Above will be the figure of a United States soldier in uniform and an allegorical representative of victory. In the center will be the name of the road, Pershing transport route. On either side of the bases will be small grass plots, surrounded by a low wall of smooth dressed stone.

Bazaar

The ladies of the Christian church will hold a bazaar at the building formerly occupied by N. B. Barr on North Main Street, this afternoon and tomorrow. Come and bring your friends.

The Hannibal Courier-Post denies the report that there are several cases of "black tongue" in that city and also adds that there is now only a few scattering cases of influenza.

Mrs. A. S. Maddox left Tuesday night for New York City where she will make her home this winter, probably returning to Monroe City in the early spring.